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Mandate

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ARTHUR VOGELSANG

Mandate

One of our kings, not me,
Was often distant and jagged to the people,
Occasionally without meaning to the people.
He could not talk the talk.
On his provincial walks he was unhelpful and myopic,
And at court his aesthetics were simplistic.
His front was independence, courage, and standards.
Really he was political (an opposite of independence),
Hysterical and bitter (an opposite of courage),
And minor (a butler of standards).
And he could not walk the walk, as I just said.
His people collected their own taxes,
And like some counterfeit Elvis
He allowed excited rioters to touch him
While the guard of that entire state watched.
There were very small blue flashers on his aluminum barricades,
Short fences which were portable and light
Enough for a little girl to lift or push, though no one did.